

**Amended Claims**

**Please replace the Claims with the currently amended set:**

Claims 1-26 (canceled)

27. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising:
  - (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a *leuD* subunit of an enzyme polypeptide having 3-isopropylmalate dehydratase activity, wherein the nucleotide sequence and SEQ ID NO:46 have at least 80% sequence identity based on the Clustal[[er]] alignment method, or
  - (b) the complement of the nucleotide sequence (a), wherein the complement and the nucleotide sequence are 100% complementary.
28. (previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim 27 wherein the sequence identity is at least 90%.
29. (previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim 27 wherein the sequence identity is at least 95%.
30. (previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim 27 wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:47.
31. (previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 27 wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:46.
32. (previously presented) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 27.
33. (previously presented) A recombinant DNA construct comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 27 operably linked to a regulatory sequence.
34. (previously presented) A method for transforming a cell comprising transforming a cell with the polynucleotide of Claim 27.
35. (previously presented) A cell comprising the recombinant DNA construct of Claim 33.
- 36-39. (canceled)
40. (previously presented) A method for isolating a polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of Claim 27 comprising isolating the polypeptide from a cell containing a recombinant DNA construct comprising the polynucleotide operably linked to a regulatory sequence.